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explained in terms of the habits of rats and fleas. Infection in neighbouring towns and villages is chiefly conveyed by man to rats by means of rat fleas carried on clothing. There are many other facts in the epidemiology of plague which can be explained in no other way than by assuming the flea to be the carrier of infection; such facts, for instance, as the notorious infectivity of houses, particularly at night, and the efficacy of oil and tobacco as preventives against plague. As to preventive measures against plague, as it seems impossible to place a distance between rats and man except by years of sanitary improvement and education, the only method that holds out any hope of salvation now and until sanitary reforms are carried out is to acquire immunity to plague by inoculation.

Reports from Calcutta—Fumigation of vessels—Cholera and plague mortality.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Eakins reports, December 8 and 15, as follows:

During the week ended December 3, 1904, bill of health was issued to the steamship *Scharzfels*, bound to Boston and New York, with a total crew of 63, and to the steamship *Terje Viken*, bound to Philadelphia, with a total crew of 44 or 47. The usual precautions were taken, holds fumigated, rat guards placed on wharf lines, and Lascars' effects disinfected.

During the week ended December 3, 1904, there were 69 deaths from cholera and 8 deaths from plague in Calcutta.

In Bengal, during the week ended November 29, 1904, there were 492 cases of and 421 deaths from plague.

During the week ended December 10, 1904, bill of health was issued to the steamship *Hohenfels*, bound to Boston and New York, with a total crew of 63. The usual precautions were taken, rat guards placed on wharf lines, and Lascars' effects disinfected.

During the week ended December 10, 1904, there were 72 deaths from cholera and 12 deaths from plague in Calcutta.

In Bengal, during the week ended December 3, 1904, there were 938 cases and 735 deaths from plague.

In India, during the week ended November 26, 1904, there were 18,488 cases and 14,528 deaths from plague.

Increase in plague in Upper India.

With the advance of the cold weather plague is again growing worse in Upper India. Last week, December 3, the United Provinces had 4,425 deaths, an increase of 1,000 on the total of the previous week; the Punjab 2,446, an increase of 400; Mysore 1,157, an increase of nearly 600; Hyderabad State 768, an increase of 200. In the Bombay Presidency there were 6,770 deaths, an increase of 300. Elsewhere throughout India the disease remains about as before. The total for the entire country last week was 17,728 deaths. This is 3,000 more than the previous 7 days and 1,000 in excess of the returns of the corresponding week of last year.